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### Questions Youth Are Asking Today

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# Questions Youth Are Asking Today

Answered by Mervyn Maxwell

## WHICH SHOULD I BE?

I am trying to decide whether to study for the ministry or to be a biology teacher in a church-related high school. It's a real dualism with me. Some days I polarize one way, and sometimes the other. I've asked people for advice and tried to evaluate my talent, but I still can't reach a conclusion. I seem to be equally fitted for either vocation. How can a young person resolve such a dichotomy?

James 1:5 says, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally."

Go on dedicating your life to God's service, and He will lead you, either by making the ideas come clear in your own mind or by closing doors and opening others.

It may help if you realize that you don't have to choose exclusively between one career and the other. A dedicated Christian biology teacher can do a lot of "pastoring" as he serves his students in and out of class, and an active minister can teach a lot of biology at youth camps and in his sermon illustrations and, if he wishes, can continue to enjoy biology in his personal hobbies.

## PRAY FOR ANOTHER HUSBAND?

During the few years we were married my husband beat me cruelly several times. He drank a lot, and sometimes he stayed out all night. He began dating someone else and left me. Then after several months he asked me to come back to him again. I almost agreed—and he suddenly got sarcastic and I refused. Now he has di-

vorced me and married again. Did I do wrong? Can I ask God to give me another husband? Sometimes I ache, I am so very, very lonely.

Most likely you did do some things wrong in your marriage. No marriage is perfect. But you surely did not do wrong when you refused to go back to your cruel husband. No woman is required to submit to physical abuse. I think any Christian would commend you for staying with your husband as long as you did.

May you pray for another husband? Certainly. Prayer is opening the heart to God as to a friend. "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee." Psalm 55:22. It is your privilege to pour out your heart's desire to Him, and you have every assurance that He will hear your prayers with the deepest affection and concern.

However, God has not promised to give every woman a husband. To do so He would have to compel someone to love you, and God compels no one's love. God will do better. As you leave your burden with Him in faith, He will sustain you. He will help you regain the poise,

## DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

Would you like to ask Mervyn Maxwell to help you find an answer? If so, send your question to

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self-confidence, and unselfish interest in others that can make you attractive to another man — and which, if no other man offers himself to you, will make you a successful person without a husband.

## GUILT BY UNIFORM

I agree when you say that Christians have a responsibility to aid wounded soldiers and are not held accountable for the later actions of the men whose lives they save. Just the same, I still believe that Christians should refuse to enter the Armed Forces. I think it is wrong to wear the uniform of an organization whose basic purpose is to murder and kill. Why don't Christian youth persuade their governments to let them serve wounded soldiers—even on battlefields—as civilians rather than as members of the military?

In some ways I like your idea, and perhaps one day it will become a reality. (Perhaps you know the difficulties that stand in the way, such as the transportation and communication required to get civilian medics to the site of action precisely when needed; also the international treaties which provide POW status for uniformed captives but allow nonuniformed captives to be shot as spies, and so on.) Until your idea becomes a reality, however, would you say that a true follower of Christ should let the suffering suffer?

See what you think of this: In order to help sinners, Jesus became a man. He took on himself "the likeness of sinful flesh." Romans 8. That is, knowing it was essential to do so in order to save us, Jesus "wore" our sinful "uniform."

And look at the sequel! Far from approving or submitting to the evil which our "uniform" connoted, Jesus showed us how a man wearing humanity *could* live if he maintained constant contact with heaven. He thus became an inspiration to millions.

How badly men in military uniforms today need Christian youth, drafted into the same uniform, to give them an example of clean and upright living! □





ERIC KREYE

(continued from page 15)



fection as perfect love. Isn't it the mature person who is capable of such love? In 1 Corinthians 13 we have an explanation of what real love is like:

"Love is so patient and so kind;  
Love never boils with jealousy;  
It never boasts, is never puffed  
with pride;  
It does not act with rudeness, or  
insist upon its rights;  
It never gets provoked, it never  
harbors evil thoughts;  
Is never glad when wrong is done,  
But always glad when truth pre-  
vails;  
It bears up under anything,  
It exercises faith in everything.  
It keeps up hope in everything,  
It gives us power to endure in  
anything."

1 Corinthians 13:4-7,

C. B. Williams.

Jesus loved like this. He was fully mature.

One of the descriptions of Christ's maturity that I appreciate the most is this by Ellen White: "Christ carried out in His life His own divine teachings. His zeal never led Him to become passionate. He manifested consistency without obstinacy, benevolence without weakness, tenderness and sympathy without sentimentalism. He was highly social; yet He possessed a reserved dignity that did not encourage undue familiarity. His tem-

perance never led to bigotry or austerity. He was not conformed to this world; yet He was not indifferent to the wants of the least among men."

In His life on this earth Jesus demonstrated the perfect combination of love and power, tenderness and strength, sympathy and firmness, that is real maturity. Yet how old was Christ to be so grown-up? He was only in His thirties when He died.

Sometimes the impression is given that Jesus was all sweet gentleness without energy and force of character. But think of the strength and manhood it required to live and act as He did, especially in the face of such cruel opposition.

The supreme demonstration of Christ's maturity and perfection came during the last few hours of His life. On the night before His crucifixion He was arrested. He was illegally tried. He was falsely accused. He was grossly insulted. But not once did He become angry.

Twice He was horribly beaten. All night long He was allowed no sleep, no food. But did He become irritated? Not for a moment.

Men made a game of slapping His wounded head. They jeered at His mysterious birth as illegitimate. They even spat in His face. But did His patience run out? Did He become angry with His tormentors? Never!

Even as He hung on the cross, enduring the pain of crucifixion and the mocking of those He came to save—even as He passed through the unspeakable agony of separation from His Father—He prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34.

Is it possible that we can ever grow up and be like Him?

In this orderly universe in which

we live it is a law that by beholding we become changed. It is a law that we become like the person we worship and admire.

No one can break this law. If we worship a legalistic, tyrannical God, we shall become legalistic and tyrannical ourselves. If we worship Christ and are able to accept His picture of God, it is a law that we shall become like Him.

How essential, then, that we take time for the study of the Bible, that our picture of God may be true! For if we are really eager to know God, if we come to regard Him with love, admiration, and faith, we need not worry about perfection. It will come. It cannot be avoided.

Does this mean there is no struggle for perfection? Paul struggled (see Romans 7:15-25) but not to *stamp* out sin. The man of faith has learned to *crowd* it out with truth.

The struggle is to take time in our busy lives to commune with God through the study of the Scriptures, to place ourselves where the Spirit can do His work of guiding us to the truth, to keep ourselves willing to listen, to learn, to accept correction and instruction.

The decision to do this is left up to us, for if God were to make it for us, our love would be synthetic, our faith would be a fraud, and we would never really grow up.

But if we are so willing, and freely choose to make God—our gracious, orderly God—the Person we supremely admire and worship, He has designed that we shall become more and more like Him, ever more perfect, ever more free.

Note: You can get a complete copy of Dr. Maxwell's latest book, *I Want to Be Free*, by writing Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1350 Villa Street, Mountain View, California 94040. Price just \$1.25 postpaid. □